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Bulbs — Plants — Seeds — Supplies

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★ *Caladium Notes*

RESPONSIBILITY OF SOURCE: Fifteen years of continuous production of Caladium bulbs that began with a single bushel of mixed seed and has grown into the worlds largest planting and the worlds largest collection of commercial varieties, has served to enlighten the writer to the knowledge that there exists very little scientific knowledge on this plant. However, this practical experience has established some facts that should be of value to the trade and the following paragraphs are devoted to briefly outlining some of those observations.

The quality of the Caladium plant you get from a given variety is vitally affected by the growing conditions in which the bulb was produced. Plantings on poorly adapted soil, improper feeding either in quantity or quality, anything that prevents vigorous, healthy growth will be reflected in plants from such bulbs. Color will be poor, growth will be slow and apparently hard. Leafing will be poor. The writer has observed cases where field planting of such stocks on most favorable soils have required six to eight weeks after emergence before the plant could rebuild the deficiencies resulting from the previous year to the point where normal growth would begin. Other instances are known where the floral grower has erroneously accused the shipper of not shipping true Candidum when the real trouble was a poorly nourished bulb. Use every precaution possible to secure bulbs from plants grown under most favorable conditions if you are to get superior performance.

Assume your bulb comes from a plant that has had the most favorable growth possible, you may still get poor performance. It is the writers opinion, based on observations, that invisible chill damage accounts for more disappointment in bulb performance than any other factor. The Caladium is truly tropical and very sensitive to cool temperature, and the drying and curing of the Caladium bulb in cool

weather is a delicate operation, yet the finest quality bulb is one that has been allowed to remain in the field in the fall until completely dormant. This necessitates winter curing.

Newly lifted Caladium bulbs are very sensitive to temperature and have been known to receive damage in a 42 degree temperature. They become pliant and stretchy like rubber instead of hard and firm. This condition continues for varying periods of time depending on degree of damage, but in most instances will finally become firm and after this time it is impossible to determine that it has been damaged unless the damage was so severe as to cause it to chalk. It has been common practice through the years by growers to ignore the damage and ship the bulb once it becomes firm. Yet, such a bulb is very slow to germinate and gives mediocre performance after emergence. It is the writers opinion that the grower is not even conscious of much of this damage, it is so minor, but any damage depreciates performance. Further it is thought that wide fluctuations in temperature is often experienced in producing area while in winter storage further depreciates performance of bulbs.

With knowledge that warm temperatures are highly desirable for well being of Caladium bulbs, and to prevent any possible damage of which we have no knowledge being experienced by the stock, this source is now handling the entire curing and storing process of Caladium under artificial, thermostatically controlled heat.

DAMAGE IN TRANSIT: Assume your bulbs have had ideal growing conditions, your source has used every precaution in preventing any damage in curing and has packed them adequately insulated from cold weather in so far as practical, and has placed proper notice of the perishable nature on the container for the carrier, you may still receive bulbs that will give poor performance because of

chill damage enroute. Before acceptance from the carrier, bulbs should be examined. If the bulb shows a sweaty condition and upon test show a pliant rubbery condition, they should be accepted on condition, and not planted, but held under observation for a few days. Remove them from the packing material, spread in flats in a warm dry location. If, and when, they become firm and rigid, it is safe to assume they are useable.

NEW VARIETIES: This source is in constant search for better variety. As a result, a number of new varieties are now being offered. These varieties have been carefully tested and found to be a desirable addition to our variety line. Trial of some of these new ones in limited quantities is recommended. The new variety names are in capital letters and are obtainable at present from this source only.

VARIETY SELECTION: Use the Color Chart and select the varieties whose color will in your opinion (your opinion is best) have the greatest appeal to your clientele. Some varieties are not vigorous bulb producers and if you are using a large bulb, check and see if the variety selected can normally be had in the bulb size you wish. If not, then time and disappointment will be saved if another variety is selected or your order submitted for the largest bulb available in the variety.

CARE OF BULBS: Caladium bulbs are very sensitive to cold temperatures. It is imperative in cold weather, and desirable at all times, that when your bulbs are received they be removed from the carton and packing material immediately, and spread thinly in a warm location with good air circulation. When bulbs are received in winter, **TO JUST BE PLACED IN A WARM LOCATION WITHOUT UNPACKING MAY BE MORE HARMFUL THAN TO LEAVE COOL**, because in warming rapidly a Caladium bulb collects moisture and unless it is exposed so that the atmosphere may absorb the moisture, mold and decay begin immediately. Bulbs spread thinly in trays in a dry place that is warm and has good air circulation should hold any reasonable time until you are ready to plant.

PLANTING: Relative to best practice in planting bulbs upside down or as they grew, some prefer one, some the other. Both procedures seem to have some merit, and the one used will depend on which is desired. Bulbs planted upside down seem to throw growth into a larger number of eyes, hence a nicer pot develops in the end, but normally emergence seems to be delayed by the adverse position of the bulb. Hence, if there is plenty of time the upside down practice would probably be best. If a quicker pot is desired the right side up planting is correct.

Many growers are now using a number of small bulbs in the larger pots instead of one large one. This practice increases cost, but results in a quicker, leafier pot that can be sold earlier and for more money than where a single bulb is used and the grower must wait for development of secondary eyes before marketing.

Another practice that is now being used is the destruction of the major eye of the bulb before planting. This is done simply by reaming the main eye out of the meat of the bulb, either with a knife or small reaming tool. The destruction of this major eye prevents the growth urge of the bulb being satisfied through this main eye. The result is the development of secondary eyes, and more, but usually smaller leaves. The practice is especially desirable on those beautiful varieties whose weakness is a limited leafing. Such varieties will often be found to produce a potato like bulb with only one main eye. This practice is not recommended in the early Spring when growth is slow to begin, unless the grower has a very warm house where rapid growth can be induced.

POT CULTURE: The Caladium is a tropical plant and naturally grows best in very warm temperatures, 70 degrees or more. They will grow in lower temperatures, but as the growing temperature is lowered performance is proportionately less desirable in growth and coloration to the point of intolerance.

Caladium are heavy feeders and seem to grow best in a soil with a pH of 5.5 to 6 and with sufficient organic matter to prevent its packing and sealing to the point of locking out air circulation. The pot soil should be loose and fluffy even after continuous and frequent watering during the growing period. A mixture of equal parts of coarse sand, peat or leaf mold, and dairy manure has been found satisfactory. In areas where the soil is of such a nature that it tends to seal and harden as it dries, the writer recommends the use of builders sand or some other substance that does not seal, as a filler in the organics for the potting soil.

Caladium should be started in moist soil, or peat. After roots have started more water should be used. As the plant develops and the leaf area increases, more water is thrown off by the leaves and more water will be required, but the soil should never contain sufficient water to "water-log" or seal out air circulation. Constant watering will tend to leach the plant food from pot soil in time, and it will be desirable to feed the plants periodically. Avoid heavy nitrogen applications. Too much nitrogen may result in an undesirable greening of the plant.

GARDEN CULTURE: The Fancy Leafed Caladium thrives best in outside plantings during the summer months in areas where humidity is not too low. It should be planted in an area of semi-shade, or a place where it is protected from the warm mid-day sun.

The bed should be spaded to a depth of 8 or 10 inches, a part of the soil removed and replaced with peat and/or dairy manure. A light application of commercial fertilizer, such as Vigoro, or a similar substance is also desirable. Mix the soil thoroughly. Bulbs should be planted to such a depth that the top of the bulb will be 1½ to 2 inches below the surface. The No. 1 size bulb planted in one foot checks should produce a very nice showing. Vary the distance with smaller or larger sized bulbs. When the planting is completed a light mulch of leaves or similar substance will help con-

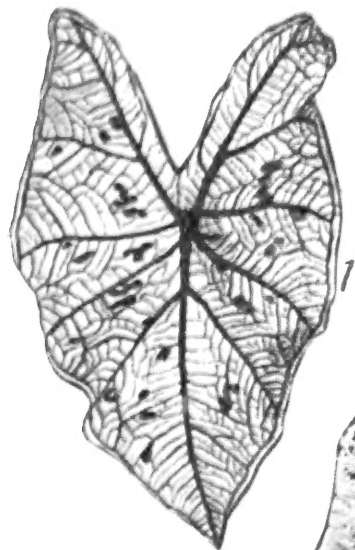
serve moisture and produce a more favorable growing condition. This mulch is a necessity for best performance if the bed is located in the open sun. Do not plant outside until after frost danger has passed. When the bed is planted, water just enough to dampen the soil. When growth becomes evident, water should be increased and when the plants are in full growth watering should be sufficient to keep the top of the soil damp at all times. The constant watering will necessitate occasional feeding of some commercial fertilizer to keep the plants looking fresh and vigorous.

Caladium are now being grown successfully outside as far north as Detroit, Michigan. They should be a profitable venture in any location where there is as much as three months during the summer when the temperature does not drop below 60 degrees. In areas where the growing season is short, bulbs may be started inside before they can be planted outside. This is done by placing the bulbs in a flat in damp peat or similar mulch about two or three weeks before they can be planted outside. The flat is then placed in a warm location like the furnace room. Additional watering may be necessary to keep the rooting media damp. When outside temperatures permit—when frost danger is past—transfer the bulbs from the flat to the bed.

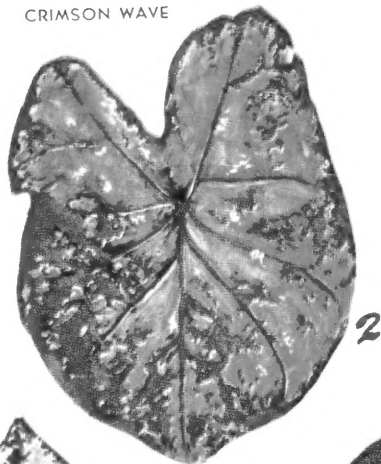
If bulbs are to be carried from one season to another, they should be lifted in the fall about the time the foliage dies. Remove as much soil as may be easily removed from the roots. Place the bulbs in regular bulb flats or flat wooden boxes and place them in the furnace room. Leave them there without additional covering until the Spring, then repeat the planting operation.

Bulbs handled as outlined above should give good performance for several seasons, if not indefinitely in the Southern states where there is a long growing season. In areas where the growing season is shorter, the Gardener may expect a loss in vitality each season and it will be necessary to replace with new bulbs from time to time.

MARIE MOIR



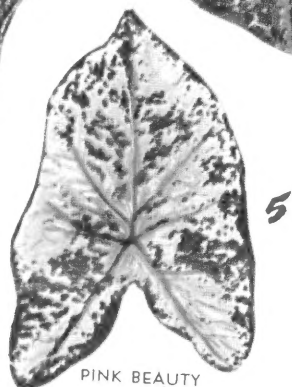
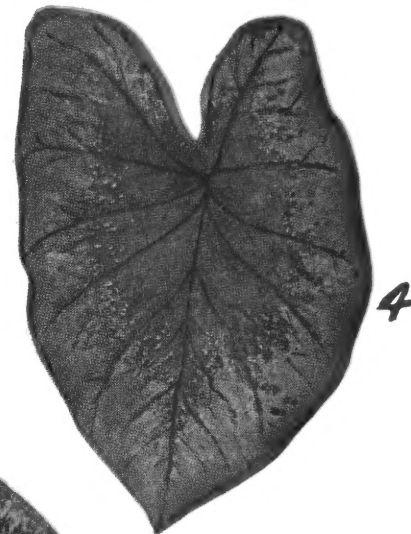
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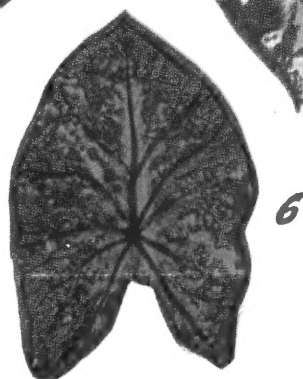
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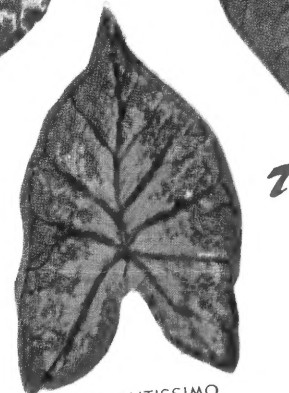
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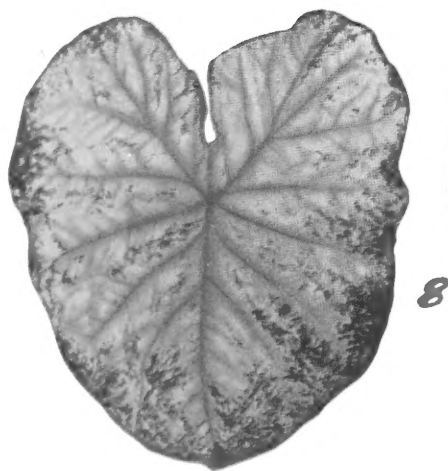
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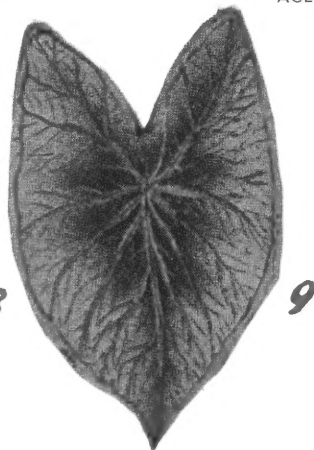
ACE OF HEARTS



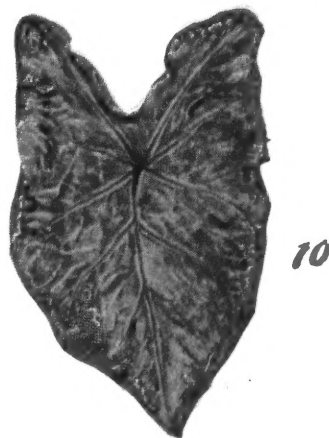
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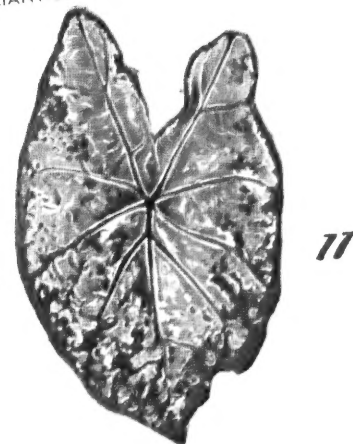
ANN GREER



TRIOMPHE DE L'EXPOSITION

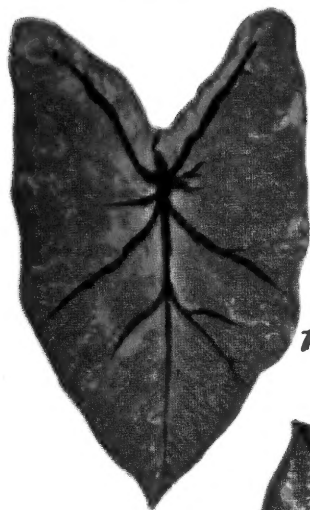


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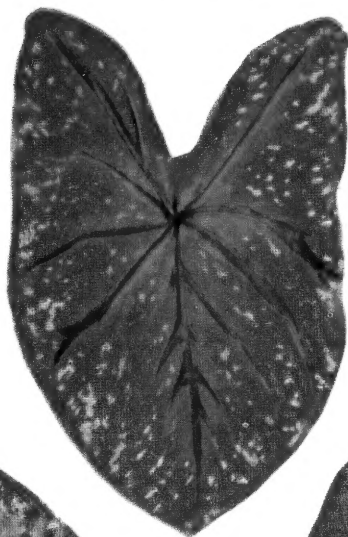
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RED FLARE



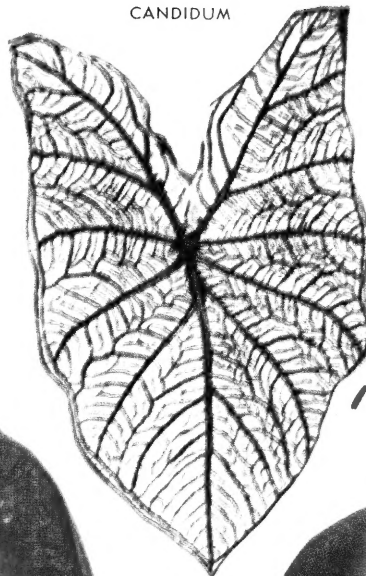
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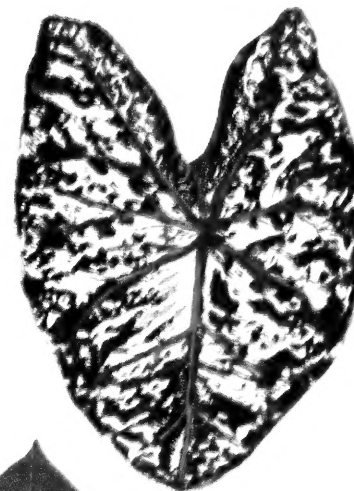
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CANDIDUM



14

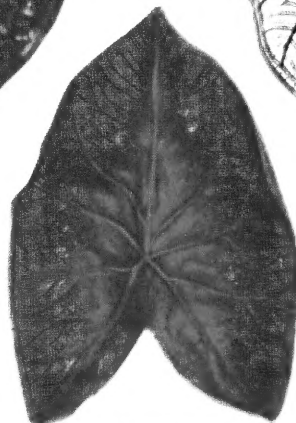
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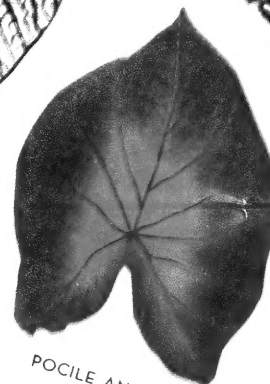
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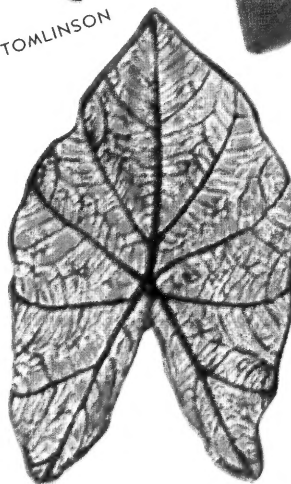
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19

JOHN PEED



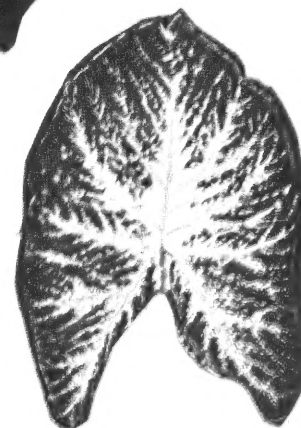
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POCILE ANGLAIS



21

RISING SUN



22

LORD DERBY

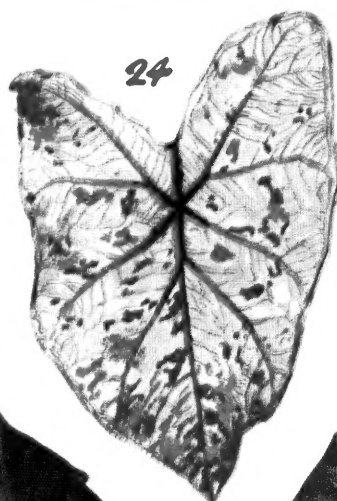
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SEAGULL

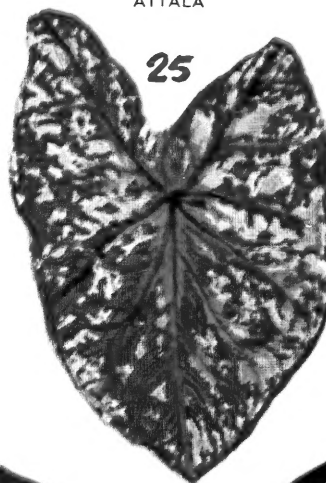
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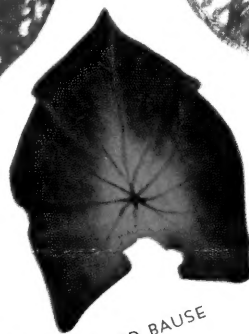
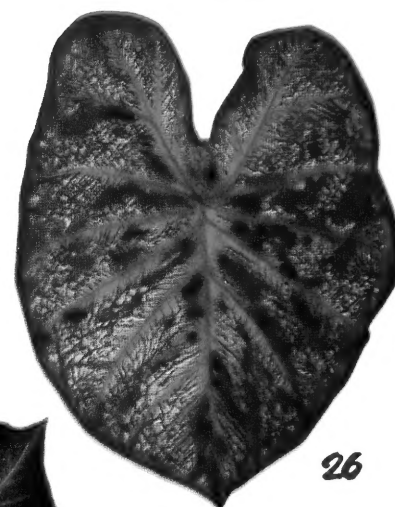
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ATTALA



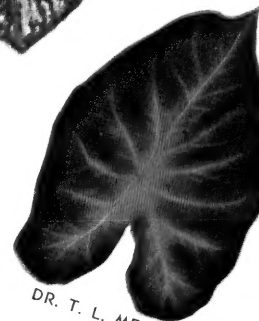
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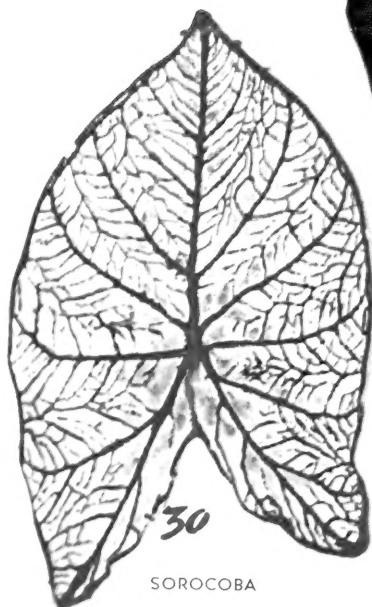
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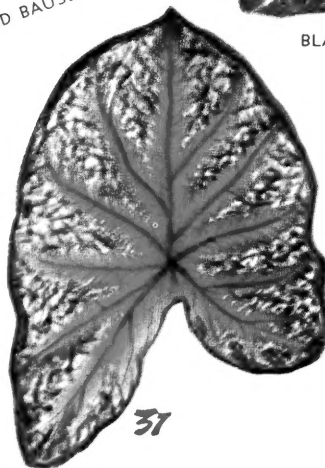
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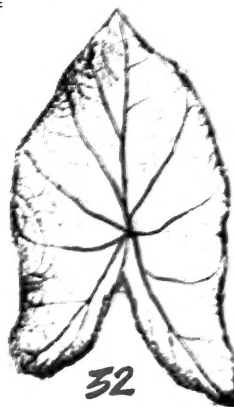
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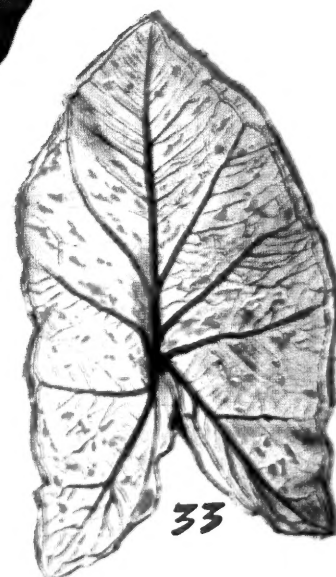
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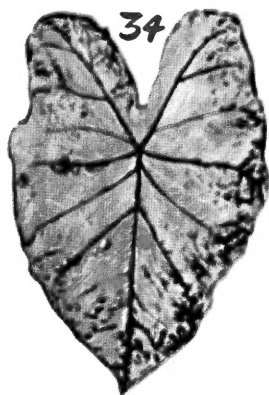


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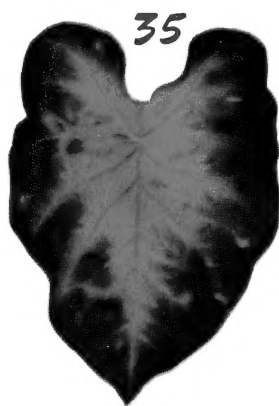


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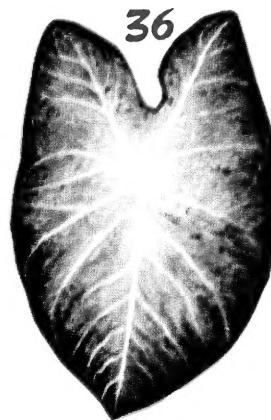
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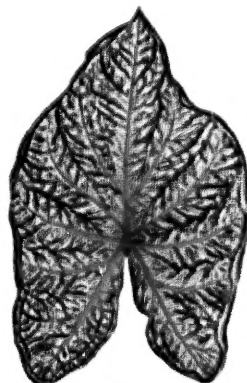
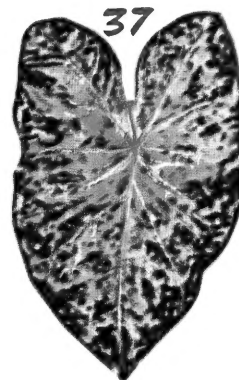
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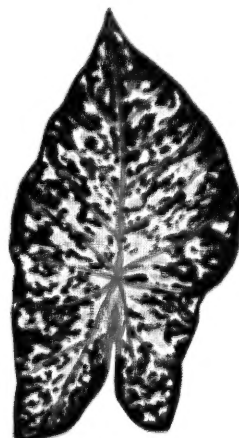
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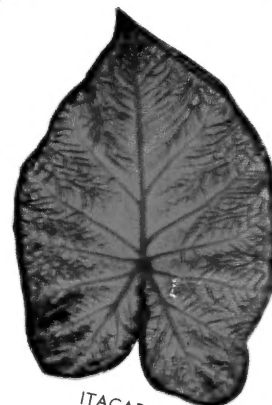
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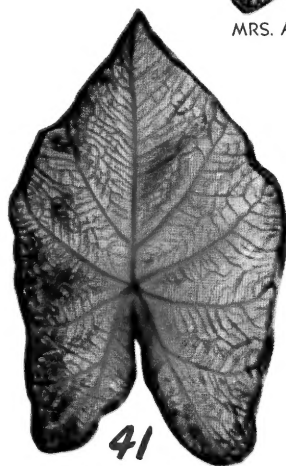
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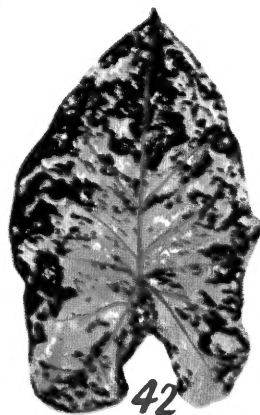
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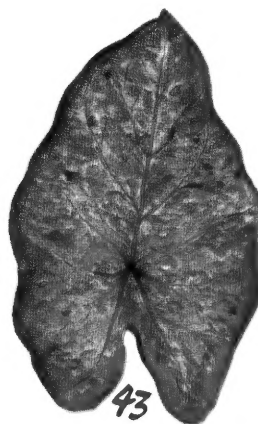
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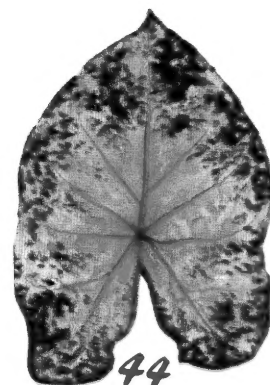
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DR. GROOVER

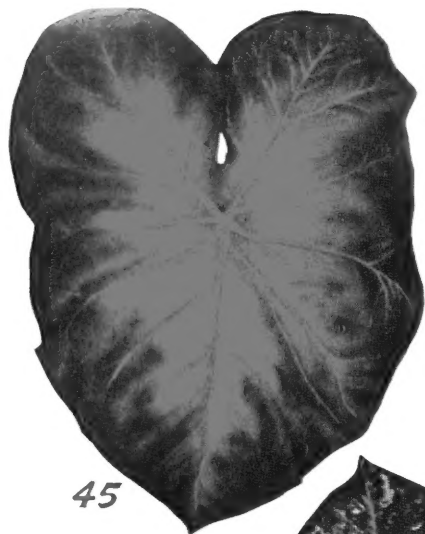


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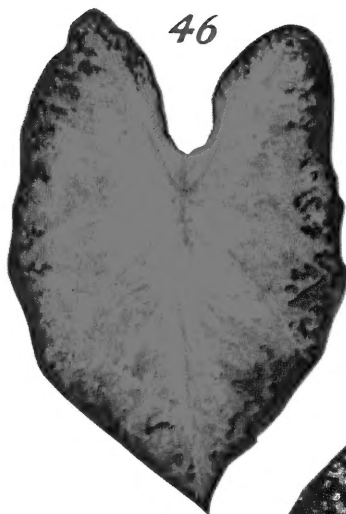
MISS CHICAGO

EDNA



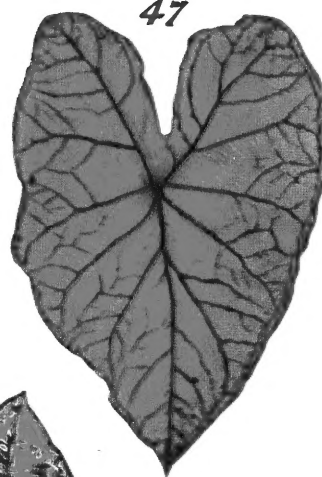
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SCARLET BEAUTY



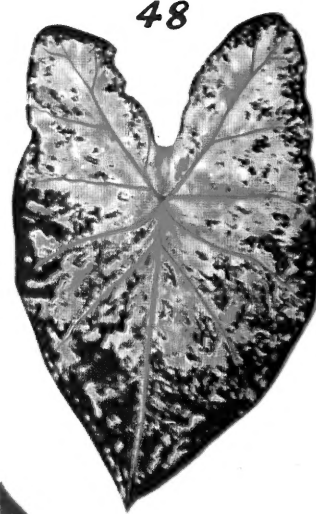
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FESTIVIA



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GAIL DEE



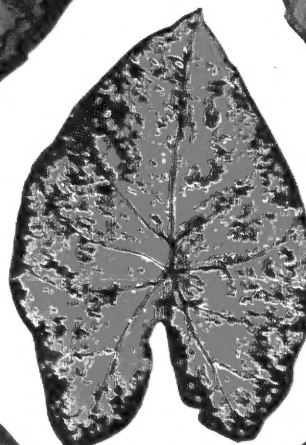
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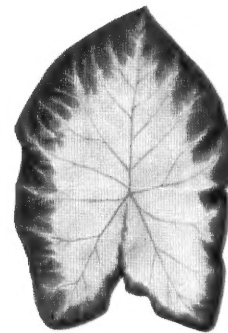
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50



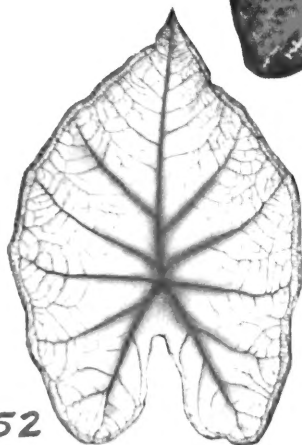
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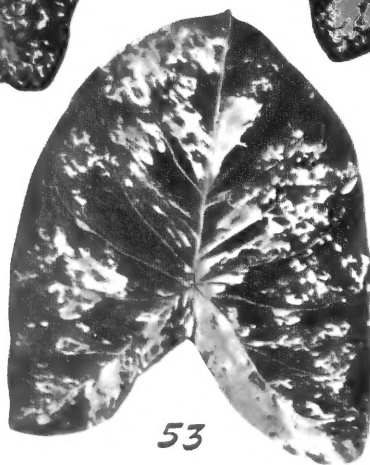
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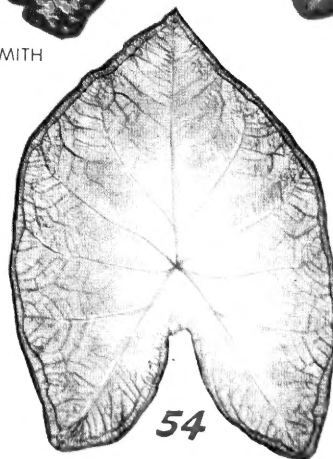
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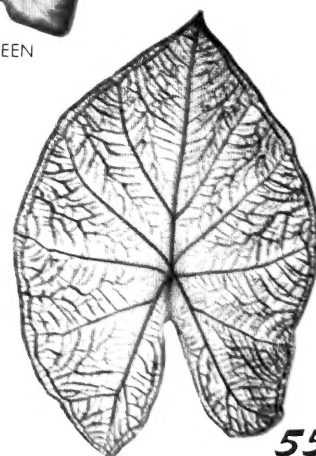
LEE STOKES

54



JUNE BRIDE

55



ROHERS' DAWN

A Descriptive List of Varieties Available but not Shown in Color

1. **A. J. BARNES.** A rather large leafed variety with a vivid Pigeon blood red center and wide pea-green border. Medium tall grower, outstanding in outside culture.

2. **Carolyn Whorton.** Perhaps the most colorful of the pink splotched varieties. It is heavy leafing and low growing. Well adapted for pot culture.

3. **Daybreak.** Called Dawn by some sources. A low growing caladium with white to blush pink leaves, netted green with green border and pink midribs. Recommended for pot culture.

4. **Dr. D. M. Cook.** An old well known variety. It has a medium large leaf with small red center that gradually fades into a rather wide peagreen border, with heavy splotches of red. Leaves are crinkled.

5. **Lord Rosenbury.** 2½-3½". Called Rosebud by some sources. A light red rose center with harmonizing green border that is highly recommended for pot culture.

6. **MABEL BARNES.** A large ruffled edged leaf with white midriff and veins and wide green border with vivid pigeon blood red splotches. A very beautiful and showy, tall growing plant and especially recommended for outside planting.

NOTES —

1. Immediately following the variety name is indicated in inches in diameter the normal largest size bulb produced in that variety.
2. Throughout this chart where no special recommendation is made in regards to outside or pot culture, the variety is acceptable in both cultures.
3. New varieties are all in capital letters.

7. **MISS MUFFETT.** 2½-3½". Our most dwarf variety. Very low growing, very dainty, medium leafer. Leaves are light green to light yellow with a wealth of small red splotches. Midrift and major veins gives impression of having been lightly fogged with deep scarlet paint.

8. **Reconcavo.** An old variety still in demand. Leaves are large, old rose in color, and light in quantity. Quick vigorous growth matures an early plant.

9. **Red Ensign.** A well colored older red Caladium with plenty of leaves. Tendency to being "leggy" and a little tall.

10. **SUSAN.** A very low growing, very beautiful new pink blotched variety that performs beautifully in pot culture.

11. **THE DUKE.** A new red variety with vivid metallic red center with moss green border. Stems are rigid and leaves are plentiful. Performs satisfactorily in pot culture or outside.

12. **WHITE PRINCESS.** Medium small leaves have snow white center with sea green ribs and border. Border flecked with white. Low growing, recommended for pot culture.

CHARACTERISTICS OF

1. **Marie Moir.** 2½-3½". A medium tall, vigorous grower that produces a good number of medium large leaves.

2. **Crimson Wave.** A vigorous large leaved variety. Shows finest color where rapid growth is induced.

3. **Vivian Lee.** Similar to Crimson Wave. Medium low growing and a good leafer.

4. **Scarlet Pimpernelle.** A vigorous low growing variety that is rapidly increasing in popularity.

5. **Pink Beauty.** A low growing pink, leafy variety that shows fine color when healthy growth is induced.

6. **Ace of Hearts.** 2½-3½". A good red, low growing, medium leafy, excellent color.

7. **Brilliantissimo.** 1½-2½". A medium low-growing vigorous variety. Recommended for its quick growth and resulting early pot sale.

8. **ANN GREER.** A large round leaved red Caladium. Medium leaf producer. Low growing.

9. **Triomphe de L'Exposition.** A strong grower with large leaves, it is an old variety but vigorous and easy to grow.

10. **Hortulania.** 1½-2½". Low growing medium leafer with outstanding color.

11. **Mrs. W. B. Halderman.** Develops adequate foliage but is tall growing, rather leggy and often very slow to develop colorful leaves.

12. **Red Flare.** A low growing leafy variety that produces an outstanding pot. Very popular.

13. **Spangled Banner.** A good red, low growing, leafy plant that shows good color from the first leaf.

14. **Candidum.** The leading white variety.

15. **Macahyba.** A medium tall, strong grower with ample foliage. Its coloration places it in a field by itself.

16. **Thomas Tomlinson.** A very low growing very leafy variety that produces an outstanding pot. For best color rapid growth should be induced.

17. **John Peed.** A very fine and popular red variety.

18. **Pocile Anglais.** Is a low growing heavy leafing red variety that we recommend most highly for potting.

19. **Rising Sun.** 2½-3½". Tall growing and light leafer but its color is outstanding and shows true from the first leaf. Especially recommended for outside planting.

20. **Lord Derby.** A low growing and very leafy variety that gives a fine pot, but color fades quickly with age.

21. **Freida Hemple.** The best all purpose red hearted Caladium we know.

22. **Seagull.** Low growing and very leafy. A good pot plant and a variation in white.

23. **Mrs. F. Sanders.** A large leaved, vigorous variety with a different coloration. A good outside variety.

24. **Mary Queen of Scots.** A low growing leafy variety that offers another variation in color.

25. **Attalla.** A vigorous, large leaved variety with outstandingly beautiful pink stems.

26. **Luella Whorton.** A vigorous, tall growing Caladium. Produces the largest leaves of any variety we know. Very colorful.

27. **Fred Bause.** A different red, that is low growing and leafy. A good potting variety.

28. **Blanch Wise.** A low growing, heavy leafing variety that offers another variation in color.

29. **Dr. T. L. Meade.** Sometimes called Blaze, is a fine red recommended for its outstanding color.

VARIETIES PICTURED

30. Sorocoba. The nearest substitution for Candidum but with a suffusion of delicate pink over the white. A good leafer.

31. Jessie Thayer. A variety with all the necessary qualifications for a good pot plant.

32. Edith Meade. A low growing leafy variety desirable for its delicate white center.

33. Brazillian Butterfly. Vigorous, low growing with plenty of foliage, but not as colorful as pictured and not specially recommended.

34. BILLY. A new pink whose characteristics in growth and color should place it among the leaders.

35. Red Polka. The only caladium we know with red splotches showing within a red field. Very beautiful and a good pot plant.

36. AARON. A new variety, first leaves are tall, but later leaves come to develop a very nice pot plant.

37. Pink Cloud. Grows medium tall, but with large outstandingly beautiful leaves. It is quite popular.

38. Mrs. Arno Nerhling. Very low, very leafy, very beautiful when it breaks color as it should.

39. Richard Deckard. 2½-3½". A very beautiful caladium. It is low growing, and though not a heavy leafer, large outstandingly beautiful leaves place it among the leading varieties.

40. Itacapus. Another fine red that is very popular as a pot plant.

41. Fannie Munson. Generally acclaimed to be the most beautiful pink of them all, it is low growing with large leaves.

42. Dr. Groover. A good pink, low growing adequate leafer, very colorful, it is recommended as a good potting caladium.

43. BILL HOLMES. A sport from Vivian Lee. It has all necessary qualifications for a good potting variety. The color is unusual and far superior to its picture.

44. Miss Chicago. A popular quick, low growing and colorful variety.

45. EDNA. 2½-3½". The brilliance of the large glossy red leaves offsets its shy leafing qualities and make it a successful variety.

46. Scarlet Beauty. It is an outstanding red with ample leaves and low growing. Good for potting.

47. FESTIVIA. A fine new red especially recommended for outside culture, but acceptable in pot culture. Good leafer, rigid stems, slightly leggy, very beautiful.

48. GAIL DEE. A very fine pink, well pictured, plenty of leaves, slightly tall but a repeat order variety.

49. FRECKLES. A dark pink, better than pictured, heavy leafer, short growth, tough, a good potting Caladium.

50. RUBY SMITH. A good potting caladium, excellent color, heavy leafer, low growing.

51. KATHLEEN. A different pink, very leafy, very low, very tough. Makes an excellent Caladium pot.

52. MRS. F. M. JOYNER. A very colorful new white Caladium, vigorous and tough. White in inside culture, copper red in outside culture. We recommend it.

53. LEE STOKES. Uniquely colored plus good leafing qualities make it an attractive Caladium.

54. JUNE BRIDE. The whitest of the whites. It is low growing and has good leafing qualities.

55. ROHERS DAWN. 1½-2½". It is low growing and unusually beautiful. Large leaved, the variety gives a good showing even if not a heavy producer of leaves.

62.61

c 1956

Fancy Leaved Caladium in Color

This color chart is presented in an effort to aid you in selecting those Caladium varieties that are most suitable to your needs. Color reproductions are, for the most part from field grown plants. The same varieties under other conditions, even different soils, will tend to vary either in amount or shade of coloring; however, general characteristics will be the same.

Your attention is directed to the section "Caladium Notes." Contained therein is information that might be helpful even if you are an experienced grower, and for the Novice it is very essential. If, after reading "Caladium Notes" you still have questions, you are encouraged to write for additional information on your specific problem.

S. S. SKIDELSKY & CO., INC.

144 WEST 27th STREET

NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

PRICE SCHEDULE

SEPARATE NAMED VARIETIES	Per	Per	NAMED VARIETIES MIXED	Per	Per
	100	1000		100	1000
1-1½ inch	11.00	100.00	1-1½ inch	10.00	90.00
1½-2½ inch	18.50	175.00	1½-2½ inch	18.00	170.00
2½-3½ inch	27.50	265.00	2½-3½ inch	27.00	260.00
3½ inch up	37.50	365.00	3½ inch up	37.00	360.00

MINIMUM ORDER 100 BULBS — NOT LESS THAN 10 BULBS OF A VARIETY

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